

March 9, 1954

Dr. W. W. Umbreit
Merck Institute for Therapeutic Research
Rahway
New Jersey

Dear Dr. Umbreit:

Thank you for your letter of March 4. I am pleased to note that my shipments of reprints to you are not wasted after all. I had in fact made a point of sending so many of these papers to you because of your previous request for republication authorization on one of my earlier papers and because I have been impressed in the past with the broad scope of your bacteriological interests. I chose to note my query in the way that I did on the premise that I would not wish to bother you about such a point unless you were in fact interested in the issue to an extent that might be indicated by your reading such a reprint. I am grateful to you for your elaboration on the point. My inference from your remarks is that the fact of non-aerobic growth on the part of some of the resistant mutants is not especially relevant to the mechanism of resistance. I must mention, in this regard, that I have never yet observed this type of non-aerobic behavior among streptomycin-resistant mutants in my own experiments. Perhaps we are not capable of recognizing them, had they occurred. If you are in a position to do so, I would be grateful to you if you could provide me with a culture exemplifying the non-aerobic behavior at the present time.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg
Associate Professor of Genetics

JL/mg

P.S. I would be pleased to have a word from you on which reprints, if any, it would be worthwhile for me to continue to send. In turn, I will mention my own requests, namely for any papers that might bear on the physiological bases of genetic differences, for example those concerned with streptomycin resistance and the mechanism of streptomycin action.